



Caribou County

October 2008

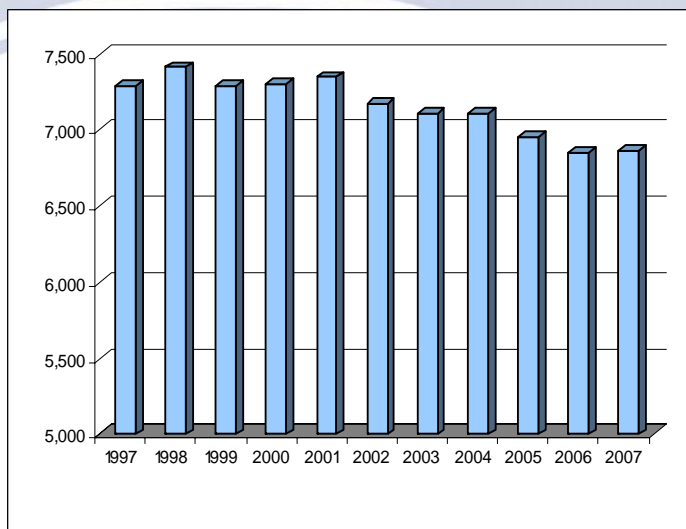
Work Force Trends

Population

History, scenery, recreation and industry combine to make Caribou County a good example of what the entire country used to be — wide open spaces, friendly people and a place to have fun.

Fluctuation best describes Caribou County's population changes between 1997 and 2007. The overall result however is decrease of 5.8% from the 1997 estimate of , 7286 to the 2007 estimate of 6,862.

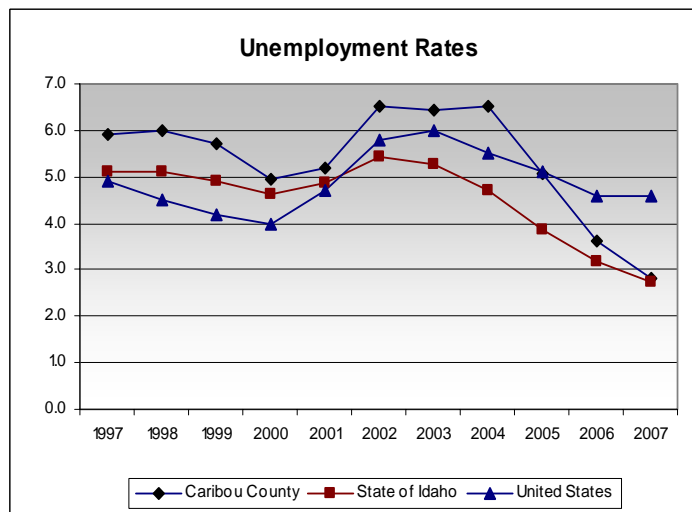
Caribou County is at the hub of two designated scenic byways — the Pioneer Historic Byway and the Caribou Scenic Byway — which bring tourism into the county. Soda Springs, named for its natural carbonated springs, has a geyser which erupts every hour on the hour. The city of Grace is home to Heritage Safe Company, which has gained national attention for their commendable business practices.



Labor Force & Employment

Caribou County has a diverse and highly-skilled work force with an excellent work ethic, which has been recognized nationally for exceptional safety records. The county's economy depends heavily on agriculture, phosphate mining and manufacturing. During the decade, the civilian labor force fluctuated with the availability of employment. In 2007 the annual average unemployment rate of 2.8% was the lowest on record . That rate was a large drop from 1997 when the annual rate was 5.9 % . . The current unemployment rate of 2.1 percent is another indicator of improving employment conditions for county residents. Over the decade, successful efforts to attract more tourism have helped diversify the labor market and several service and trade sector businesses opened, which contributed to the reduction in unemployment rates.

Because the county is heavily dependent on natural resource based industries — agriculture, mining and



manufacturing — both population and employment are influenced by the national economic fluctuations that accompany those industries. Following national trends, jobs in the county's natural resource based industry — mining — declined during the 1990s, and only recently have employment prospects improved. Jobs in construction, manufacturing, trade, services and government education increased in response to needs associated with local mining as well as in response to gas and oil exploration in neighboring states of Wyoming , Utah and Montana.

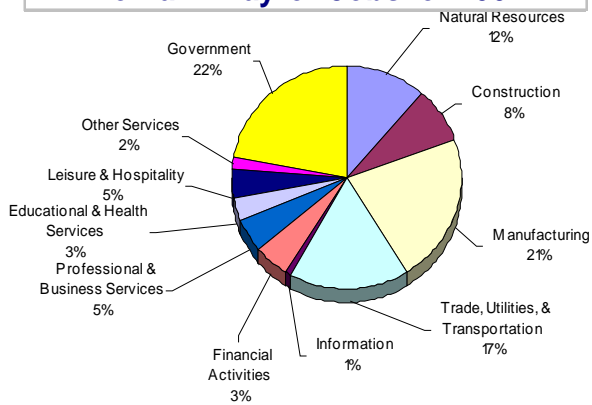
Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	3,337	3,312
Total Employment	3,252	3,164
Unemployed	85	148
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	4.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	3,259	3,256	3,105	3,287	3,431	3,361	3,398	3,284	3,278	3,312	3,332
Unemployment	192	195	178	163	178	219	219	214	167	121	94
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	6.0	5.7	4.9	5.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.1	3.6	2.8
Employment	3,067	3,061	2,927	3,124	3,253	3,142	3,179	3,070	3,111	3,192	3,237

Prepared by Scott Hobdey, Regional Economist, Idaho Department of Labor • 430 N. Fifth Ave., Pocatello, Idaho 83205

Phone: (208) 236-6710, ext. 3713 • e-mail: scott.hobdey@labor.idaho.gov • Labor Market Information Web site: lmi.idaho.gov

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Industry Employment and Wages

Nearly half of all jobs in Caribou County are in the production of fertilizer, phosphorus and weed killer. Mining and construction provided 19 percent of the jobs and 23 percent of the wages. Manufacturing provided 22 percent of the jobs and its wages are 45 percent of all county wages.

Government is the next largest group providing 23 percent of the jobs in Caribou County. Nearly 90 percent of those jobs are in local government.

Wages are higher than most of the state due to the influence of the phosphate mining and manufacturing in Caribou County. The average annual covered wage in Caribou County is among the highest in the state at

Major Employers

Agrium U.S., Inc.
Degerstrom-Dravo
Caribou Memorial Hospital & Living Center
J.R. Simplot Co., Smoky Mine
Heritage Safe Company
Mark III
Monsanto Company

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wages

Cashiers, Retail	\$6.23
Cooks	\$6.76
Food & Beverage Servers	\$5.85
Janitors	\$6.86
Construction Laborers	\$8.10
Maids	\$6.07
Nurses, Registered	\$19.83
General Office Clerks	\$7.35
Stock & Shipping Clerks	\$10.24
Teachers	\$31,750.00

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Commerce Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

\$39,604. However, per capita income of \$25,257 is only 88.7 percent of the state average wage.

Covered employment and wages both increased in 2006. Employment grew 4.6 percent and average wage increased 2.6 percent.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,035	\$32,058	3,166	\$39,026	3,216	\$40,038
Agriculture	63	\$14,951	79	\$17,393	104	\$19,150
Mining	418	\$43,462	347	\$50,955	358	\$46,584
Construction	298	\$30,645	238	\$39,198	251	\$46,471
Manufacturing	760	\$55,876	694	\$76,789	692	\$78,809
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	470	\$19,096	482	\$24,472	518	\$23,714
Information	14	\$8,597	21	\$16,834	22	\$16,733
Financial Activities	62	\$17,579	144	\$27,950	152	\$33,563
Professional and Business Services	48	\$16,265	164	\$27,457	150	\$28,436
Educational and Health Services	104	\$14,356	103	\$16,269	103	\$17,102
Leisure and Hospitality	135	\$5,322	152	\$6,745	132	\$7,548
Other Services	44	\$12,199	46	\$15,393	50	\$15,689
Government	619	\$20,798	696	\$25,589	683	\$26,740

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Caribou County	\$20,290	\$20,210	\$20,390	\$20,622	\$20,975	\$22,165	\$22,789	\$25,490	\$25,960	\$27,436
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
Idaho Department of Labor
430 N. 5th Ave.
Pocatello, ID 83205-4087 Ph: (208) 236-6710

labor.idaho.gov

This publication is produced by Idaho Department of Labor funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Costs associated with this specific publication are available by contacting Idaho Department of Labor.

Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for TTY Idaho Relay Service.